

Appl. No.: 10/814,706
Amdt. dated: May 31, 2006
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2186

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4, and 19-26 are pending. Claims 1, 19, 20, 22, and 23 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Applicant believes the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

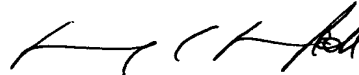
Applicant would like to thank Examiner Paul W. Schlie and Pierre Bataille for the courteous interview extended to Applicant's counsel, Chun-Pok Leung, the inventor, Manabu Kitamura, and Applicant's representative, Tsuyoshi Aoyama, on May 9, 2006.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



Chun-Pok Leung
Reg. No. 41,405

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
RL:rl
60776503 v1